

PATENT

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IV. Remarks**A. Summary of Amendments**

Claim 1 has been amended to better recite the "modulator" element, specifically that the carrier is modulated "to develop" a modulated signal. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite the clarifying comment that the controller applies the recovered control signal to the variable directivity antenna "to thereby vary the directivity of said variable directivity antenna" consistent with preceding recitations in Claim 1.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants are grateful to the Examiner for recognizing the allowable subject matter set forth in Claims 6 and 7, if rewritten in independent form.

C. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Action rejects Claims 1-5 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,926,187 to Sugawara et al. (Sugawara). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are requested in view of the following arguments.

Claim 1 recites a signal receiving system including "a variable directivity antenna having its directivity varied in accordance with a control signal applied thereto." The Action alleges that this feature is shown in Figure 3b of Sugawara. Applicants respectfully disagree.

FIG. 3b of Sugawara illustrates the main unit of the RF-ID system of Sugawara, including antenna 212. Antenna 212, however, is not a variable directivity antenna, as claimed in Claim 1. According to the accompanying description, the antenna 212 is used to transmit circularly polarized wave signals, and its directivity does not change. (Column 7, Lines 19-57) Specifically, an ASK-modulated wave comprising a carrier ASK-modulated wave with data from the data processing portion 100 is supplied by an ASK modulation oscillator 111 to the hybrid H. Also, a carrier CW2 is applied to the hybrid H from the unmodulated carrier wave oscillator 112. The hybrid H generates, from the ASK wave and the carrier wave CW2, microwaves Wa and

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Wb in the quadrature phase relationship and couples them to the nodes a and b of the antenna 212. Then, the antenna transmits the circularly polarized wave signals. Tellingly, there is no discussion in the description of Figure 3b of the antenna 212 as being a variable directivity antenna, let alone a variable directivity antenna with directivity that is responsive to a control signal applied thereto, and it is submitted that one of ordinary skill would not understand the antenna 212 to be as such. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to provide specific citation to alleged support for this variable directivity antenna feature in any future action.

For at least these reasons, it is submitted that Sudawara does not teach the variable directivity antenna feature of Claim 1. It is submitted, therefore, that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Sudawara and is allowable thereover.

Claims 2-7 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above in connection with Claim 1.

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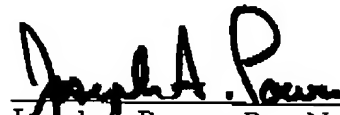
V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant(s) submit that this application is in condition for allowance at an early date, which action is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to deposit account 04-1679.

Respectfully submitted,

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